



# Brownfields Assessment Pilots

## *City of Duluth, MN*

### BACKGROUND

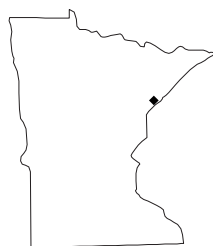
EPA has selected the City of Duluth for a Brownfields Assessment Pilot. The city also was selected to receive additional funding for assessments at brownfields properties to be used for greenspace purposes. Duluth (population 86,918) is located on Lake Superior in eastern Minnesota. The target area for the Pilot is an old industrial district along the lakefront that has many underused, outmoded, and vacant commercial and industrial properties. The industrial district has a few active manufacturing plants, but many properties are vacant legacies of a once diverse economy based on packing houses, scrap yards, grain mills, lumberyards, industrial and commercial warehouses, and railroad, shipping, and marshaling operations. The city has identified two project sites for immediate assessment: the 200-acre Rice's Point site, which consists of former industrial and railyard properties; and the Harborfront site, which consists of 34 acres of publically owned land in a heavily industrialized area along the St. Louis Bayfront. The city also will inventory other sites using Pilot funding.

The target sites are in an older, industrial area of the city with high unemployment and poverty rates, below average housing, and numerous vacant properties. The target area has an unemployment rate of about 25 percent; and a minority population, consisting primarily of Native Americans, that is more than double that of the city as a whole. Forty-two percent of residents of the target area have incomes below the poverty level.

### OBJECTIVES

Duluth's objective is to address the environmental uncertainties associated with potential brownfields sites in the city's waterfront district in order to expand industrial redevelopment, restore greenspace, provide recreational opportunities, and build affordable housing. The city will

### PILOT SNAPSHOT



*City of Duluth, Minnesota*

**Date of Announcement:**  
May 2002

**Amount:** \$ 200,000

**Greenspace:** \$50,000

**Profile:** The Pilot targets sites in the city's waterfront district, which is an economically disadvantaged area with many underused and vacant industrial properties.

### Contacts:

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Regional Brownfields Team  
U.S. EPA Region 5  
(312) 353-0123

Visit the EPA Region 5 Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:  
[www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields)

accomplish this objective in part by using Pilot funds to identify brownfields sites in the project area, define the contamination on selected sites, develop cleanup plans, and reach out to the public.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Performing an area-wide inventory of the Pilot area and integrating site information into a mapping system;
- Conducting Phase I environmental assessments on approximately ten sites;
- Conducting Phase II environmental assessments on an estimated five sites;
- Preparing cleanup action plans for about five sites; and
- Involving the communities affected by the sites in decision making.

*The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.*